

He decides :

"2. In this jurisdiction an unaffiliated Mason whose residence is within this State, may apply to any Lodge in this State for membership, whether he resides within its territorial limits or not. The rule requiring application to be made to the nearest Lodge, refers only to candidates for the degrees of Masonry, and not to petitioners for affiliation.

"8. A Lodge after it has accepted a petition for initiation, should not permit it to be withdrawn, but it should take the usual course and be disposed of by ballot. If, however, after acceptance of the petition it is ascertained that the candidate, for any reason, is ineligible or that the Lodge has not jurisdiction of him, the petition should be dismissed without a ballot.

"9. A petition for affiliation may be withdrawn by consent of the Lodge, without a ballot."

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"The Grand Master stated in reference to the matter of the recognition of the Grand Orient of Brazil, which had been referred to him at the last session, that he had not yet formed his opinion as to what action ought to be taken, and was therefore not prepared to make a final report on the subject."

Upon the following resolutions :

"Resolved, That while this Grand Lodge fully recognizes the doctrine laid in the ancient Constitutions 'that it is the duty of every Mason to belong to some regular Lodge,' yet as our institution is a voluntary one, it is the undoubted right of any member of a Lodge, in good standing to request a dimit, without giving any reason therefor, and when such a request is made it is the duty of the Lodge to grant it.

"Resolved, That unaffiliated Masons shall be deprived of all Lodge rights and benefits, and shall not be allowed to visit except with a view of petitioning the Lodge for membership."

The Grand Master said :

"That he held that when a question of right or expediency came into consideration, we should do what is *right*. He advocated the adoption of the resolutions in a strong and earnest argument, on the ground that they were right in principle, but that a large number of States had taken the position he advocated—some eighteen or more States—that it was the inalienable right of a Brother to receive a dimit—and the duty of a Lodge to grant it without requiring a reason for petitioning therefor, if the Brother was in good standing in his Lodge."

We readily concur in these views.

The resolutions were adopted, with the addition of the words, "that a reason satisfactory to the Lodge be given."

A pleasing review of the Proceedings of sister Grand Lodges, (including Nova Scotia) is given by Bro. Henry Clark, Grand Secretary.

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